

1874

The 2nd phase of Tx Ranger History began - that of law enforcement. In 1874 the Tx legislature authorized the "Frontier Battalion".

The Rangers of this outfit displayed many of the defining features of their predecessors but they were no longer citizen soldiers. The "Texas Ranger" meant "state lawman" rather than

"Indian fighter." He now contended with offenders against the laws of Texas. Maj. John B. Jones presided over its transformation into a state law enforcement agency.

In 1847 he was 40, a bachelor, dignified and humorless, religious, (used neither tobacco nor alcohol) soft spoken, courteous, kind, and indefatigably determined to fashion an organization capable of carrying out its assigned mission. He reshaped the Texas Ranger tradition without destroying it. Rangers still provided their own horses & arms. There still were no uniforms.